

NAVAL FORCES ON GREAT LAKES: INTERPRETATION OF RUSH-BAGOT AGREEMENT

Exchange of notes at Ottawa February 26 and March 9, 1942

Entered into force March 9, 1942

Expired in accordance with its terms

61 Stat. 4080; Treaties and Other
International Acts Series 1836

The American Minister to the Secretary of State for External Affairs

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Ottawa, Canada, February 26, 1942

No. 611

SIR:

May I refer to Dr. Skelton's note of October 30, 1940, and my reply of November 2, 1940,¹ interpreting the Rush-Bagot Agreement² in the light of existing conditions and in conformity with the intent of the Agreement. I am now in receipt of instructions from my Government to suggest that in order to permit naval vessels being constructed on the Great Lakes to combat enemy action upon their arrival in the open sea, they be permitted to have their armament placed in complete readiness for action and that all essential tests and trial of machinery and armament, including the submerged operations of submarines and test firing of torpedoes and guns be effected in Great Lakes waters. My Government is in hopes that the Canadian Government will approve the suggestion, it being understood that the proposed procedure is to be effective only for the duration of the present hostilities.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

PIERREPONT MOFFAT

The Right Honorable
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
Ottawa.

¹ TIAS 1836, *ante*, p. 196.

² TS 110½, *post*, UNITED KINGDOM.

*The Secretary of State for External Affairs to the American Minister*DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
CANADA

No. 21

OTTAWA, March 9, 1942

SIR:

I have the honour to refer to your Note No. 611 dated 26th February, 1942, with regard to the further interpretation of the Rush-Bagot Agreement in the light of existing conditions and in conformity with the intent of the Agreement.

Consideration has been given to your suggestion, and I am now authorized to inform you that the Canadian Government agrees to a further interpretation of the Rush-Bagot Agreement based upon it. Accordingly, in order to permit naval vessels being constructed on the Great Lakes to combat enemy action upon their arrival in the open sea, they will be permitted to have their armament placed in complete readiness for action and all essential tests and trials of machinery and armament including the submerged operations of submarines and test firing of torpedoes and guns may be effected in Great Lakes waters.

The Canadian Government also concurs in your suggestion that this procedure should be effective only for the duration of the present hostilities.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

N. A. ROBERTSON
for
*the Secretary of State
for External Affairs*

The Honourable J. PIERREPONT MOFFAT,
*United States Minister to Canada,
United States Legation,
Ottawa.*